

McGregor W. Scott

United States Attorney Eastern District of California

Sacramento 501 I. Street, Ste 10-100 Sacramento CA 95814 Tel (916) 554-2700 TTY (916) 554-2855 **NEWS RELEASE**

Fresno 2500 Tulare St., Suite 4401 Fresno, CA 93721 Tel (559) 497-4000 TTY (559) 497-4500

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Contact: Patty Pontello, 916-554-2706

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MODESTO MAN INDICTED FOR RECEIPT AND POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

FRESNO-- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury returned a two-count indictment charging JEFFERSON CASTILLO FAULVE, 38, of Modesto, California with receiving and possessing child pornography. The indictment alleges that on or about November 15, 2006, FAULVE received and was in possession of images involving the sexual exploitation of minors.

According to court documents previously filed in this case, the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) began its investigation when information was received from ICE federal agents in New Jersey that movies and still images depicting the sexual exploitation of minors were being purchased from illegal websites. Investigation revealed that one of the subscribers of the illegal images was located at FAULVE's residence. A federal search warrant was executed on his computer hard drives on November 15, 2006. Forensic examination revealed numerous images of child pornography contained on FAULVE's computer hard drives and CD's.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Sherrill A. Carvalho, who is prosecuting the case, if convicted of the charges as alleged in the indictment, FAULVE faces up to 20 years imprisonment and a mandatory minimum of five years imprisonment for receipt of material involving the sexual exploitation of minors. Possession of child pornography is punishable for up to 10 years in prison. Both offenses provide for a possible lifetime term of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.